

Integrated Water Quality and Aquatic Communities Protocol – Lakes and Ponds

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) #4: Order of Work

Draft Version 1.0

Revision History Log:

Previous Version	Revision Date	Author	Changes Made	Reason for Change	New Version

This SOP lays out an example flow of work for the field crew. The goal is for a two person crew to be able to sample a small pond or lake in 2-3 hours and a larger lake in 3-4 hours. This will then allow adequate access time to sample the largest of lakes in a 10-12 hour workday. Additionally, it is hoped that multiple smaller lakes could also be accomplished in a 10-12 hour workday.

Unlike other SOPs, this SOP should be flexible for different crews. As long as certain principles are held and individual SOPs are adhered to, crews should be free to modify the order of tasks as they see efficient. For example, if a local park specialist accompanies the crew for a day, there may be a more efficient way for the crews to accomplish the workload with a third person.

This SOP explains how the following SOPs are integrated into an overall work flow so that procedures do not interfere with each other (Figure 1). Hence, the following descriptions do not detail the steps, but they refer to the other SOPs. In some cases, a SOP is started early and allowed to continue while the crew focuses their attention on other matters.

The order of work presented represents a schematic of what worked well during the pilot project used in developing these SOPs. The primary considerations in modifying this order of work are:

1. Doing the zooplankton, secchi depth, and the water probe prior to water sample collection may stir up bottom sediments which will give spurious results for water chemistry. Hence, water sample collection should be a priority before other collections. SOP #8: Water Sample Collection has more details on water collection.
2. Deployment of the gill net for fish collection (SOP #7: Fish Collection and Processing) should be started as soon as possible. The net must be deployed for a minimum of 2 hours. At smaller lakes, the other SOPs may be completed within this time window, allowing the crew to sample additional nearby sites that day.

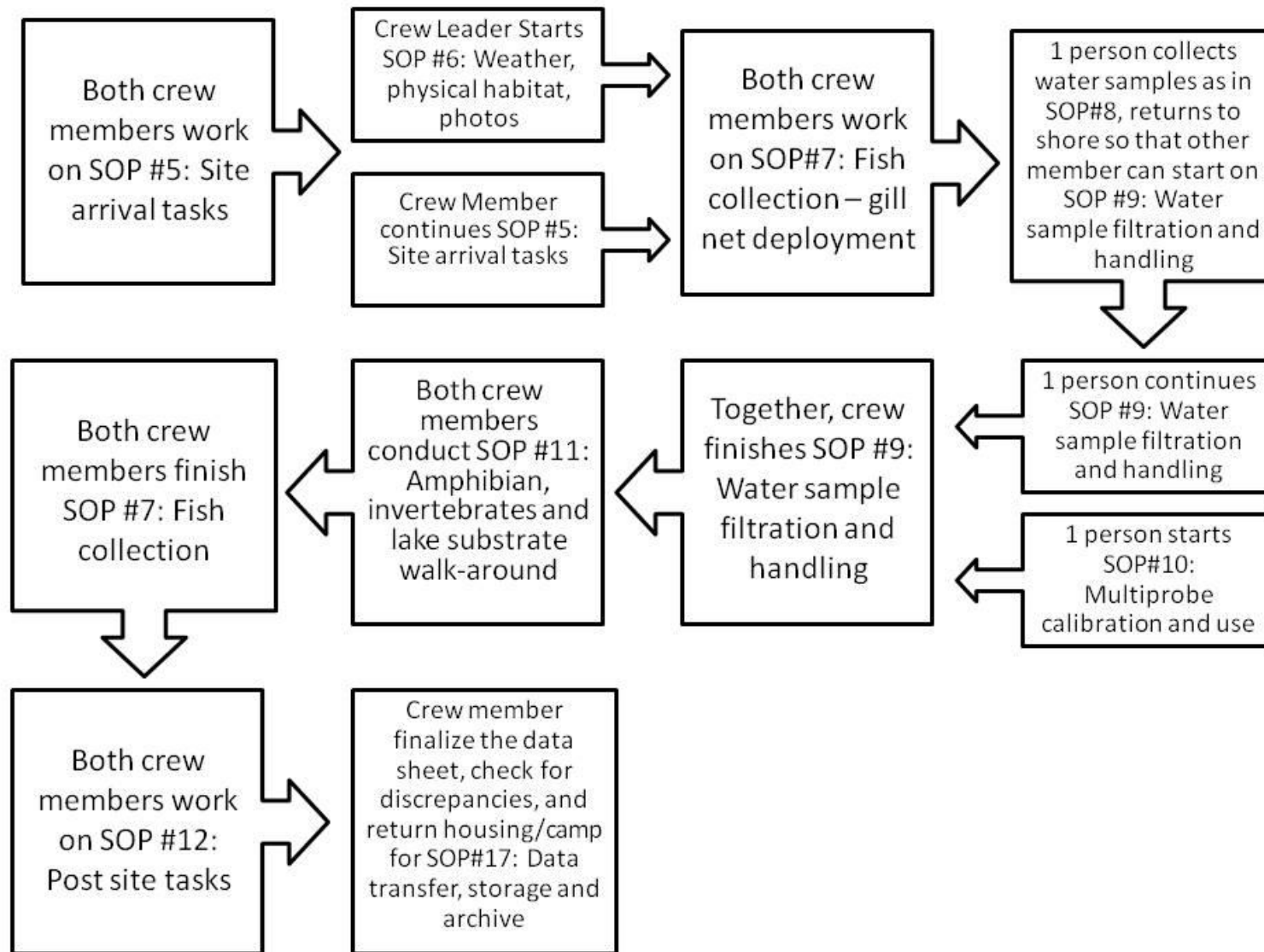


Figure 1. Suggested order of work for efficient sampling of lakes and ponds.